

*The*  
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# EMA Report

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

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## **Monell Leaves After 19 Years**

### Deputy Director Moves To Columbus Port Authority

Donna Monell, Deputy Director Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) left the agency April 27, 2007 after 19 years of service for a new position with Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

As the new emergency planning and training manager for Port Columbus International Airport, Rickenbacker International Airport and Bolton Field, Monell hopes to continue all public safety partnerships she currently holds.

"I don't feel like I'm leaving. It is just another opportunity to practice emergency management in Franklin County," she said.

Jane Brautigam, City Manager of Dublin and FCEM&HS Executive Board Chair said Central Ohio is fortunate to retain her talents in service to the region.

***"She maintained the highest goals of the agency and her expertise and knowledge is crucial to emergency management for the region."***

Monell was hired as an Administrative Assistant in 1988.

In 1991, she was promoted to Public Education, Training and Exercise Manager, and in 1998 promoted to deputy director. Monell attended Indiana University and in 1995 she received her Certified Emergency Manager credential from the International Association of Emergency Managers.

She also completed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Professional Development series.

Director Gary L. Holland said Monell's winning personality and experience will be missed.



Donna Monell (center) with FCEM&HS staff (left to right) Pam Tickle, Jan Bartel, Gary L. Holland, Jim Leonard and Art Baker

"Throughout her years of public service, Donna has fostered lasting relationships in virtually every segment of the county's emergency response community. I wish her the very best in her new role at the Port Authority. I look forward to continuing a positive relationship as we all strive to minimize the loss of life and property within the region."

Mifflin Township Fire Chief L. James DeConnick, President, Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association knew Monell when she started with the agency. "Donna has the ability to make everyone in a room feel comfortable despite their differences. It is not about her. It's about what she can do for you, so I know she is well fitted for her new position."

As a vital member of a highly skilled professional staff, Monell chaired the Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council Training sub-committee and was Secretary/Treasurer of the Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association. Director Holland noted her efforts coordinating the State Homeland Security Grant Program and chairing both the Homeland Security Advisory Committee and Technical Operations/Training Sub-committee.

Deputy Chief of Police, Columbus Division of Police John Rockwell has worked with Monell the past eight years.

*"She is more than a friend. She's someone you can trust implicitly to get things done."*

Kathy Crandall, Director of the Franklin County Office of Homeland Security and Justice Programs puts a high premium on personal and professional collaboration. "Donna is the glue that holds the region to the standard to which we have excelled."

**C**heryl L. Grossman, a life-long resident of Grove City, began her career in local politics as Grove City Council President and Council Member-at-Large for 1994–1995, following a stint as a Grove City Planning Commission member.

At the conclusion of her Council term in 1996, she was elected to serve as Mayor and is now in her third term.

Mayor Grossman has served Grove City and its residents in many ways. She has a vision for a thriving 21<sup>st</sup> century community which remains in touch with its proud, historic past. She is focused on continuously improving the quality of life for Grove City residents, attracting quality businesses and jobs to the community and ongoing infrastructure improvements to support the vibrant city. She also has championed the historic Town Center revitalization, and has led the push for the Pinnacle Golf Course community. In addition, she has been instrumental in the development of the 1 million square-foot retail center, Parkway Centre.



Mayor Cheryl L. Grossman

"The work of this agency [ FCEM&HS] is crucial to the health and well-being of all Franklin County residents," Mayor Grossman said. "I am proud to be a part of this important effort to educate the public, and prepare for varied disaster scenarios including seasonal storms. Our work is an exercise in creating strong partnerships with a common goal. It is imperative that local governments work together to maintain and enhance the best plans possible for the safety of all citizens."

Her membership and honors include: Community & Economic Development Committee, National League of Cities; 2004 Columbus Board of Realtors Citizen of the Year; Ohio Retirement Study Council; Columbus Chamber of Commerce Regional Economic Leadership Group; YMCA of Central Ohio Metropolitan Board; First graduating class of the JoAnn Davidson Leadership Institute; and Vice-Chair, Franklin County Public Works Integrating Committee.

**Editor's Note:** Each edition we feature an Executive Committee member and profile their duties and vision for FCEM&HS. Darryl Hughes is the alternate.



On April 2, during the hostage crisis in Hilliard, FCEM&HS activated The Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) to contact more than 200 residents to shelter in place for their safety while police resolved the situation. If you would like to add your cell phone or unlisted number to the database to ensure you are contacted when TENS is used, please visit our website at [www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs).

**FCEM&HS Office closed Monday, May 28, 2007 in observance of Memorial Day.  
Normal office hours will resume Tuesday, May 29, 2007.**

### Upcoming CERT Class

Twenty-hour CERT classes begin 7 May — 2 June and 5 June — 26 June. All classes are held at the Madison Township Fire Station #182, 6600 Gender Road, Canal Winchester, OH 43110. For further information visit [www.madison township.org/fire/station/182/sta182.htm](http://www.madison township.org/fire/station/182/sta182.htm) or log on to [www.fccert.org](http://www.fccert.org).

### Upcoming Meetings

May 8	9AM	Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
May 9	1-2PM	Central Ohio Public Information Network	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
May 15	11-1PM	Citizen Corps	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
May 16	9AM	Executive Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
May 22	1-4PM	Animal Plan	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
May 24	9AM	Mass Feeding	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
May 30	9AM	9-1-1 Managers	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
May 30	9-11AM	Pan Flu	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.



**Gary L. Holland, Director**

**Jim Leonard, EM-Recovery/Communications**

**Jan Bartel, Finance**

**Art Baker, EM Warning/EOC**

**Pam Tickle, Administrative Assistant**

**Robert Crockett, PIO/Community Education Outreach**

[www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs)



# *Dialogue with a Community*

Part II, By Gary L. Holland

## **Defining and Conversing with the Special Needs Population in Franklin County, Ohio**

### **Government Compliance**

More than a consistent work plan, as outlined by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) or the comprehensive all-hazards multi-level approach of The National Response Plan (NRP), our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is both an operational outline and reference document.

Such elements must be compliant with NRP and NIMS. For a blueprint, I examined The Justice Department's Americans with Disability Act: *"Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities."* The Center For Disease Control and Prevention's *"Public Health Workbook to Define, Locate and Reach Special, Vulnerable, and At-Risk Populations in an Emergency"* working draft proved to be instrumental. Another useful source is the General Accounting Office study GAO 07-44: *"Transportation – Disadvantaged Populations."*

### **Ah Ha Moments**

Help was needed to reflect Franklin County's growing diversity demographic: input and guidance from various segments was, and remains necessary.

An important first step is to foster relationships with established support agencies that have EOPs, but without large scale coordination among and integration of special needs groups. A grass roots approach was indicated. I linked the agency with Lissette and several other Somali, Latino, African and Asian American leaders to forge an articulated resource guide.

Concurrently, the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus recruited and hired language experts who can interface with the county's ethnic communities. The Ohio State School for the Blind has sheltering in place and evacuation procedures that rival any similar processes nationwide.

To buttress area partnerships, I extended or augmented various Memoranda of Understanding with other important entities such as the Mid Ohio Food Bank, Goodwill Columbus and multi-jurisdictional mutual aid agreements. These include the five perimeter counties bordering Franklin and with several other major relief agencies in Central Ohio.

### **Final Thoughts**

As a risk management agency and de facto liaison between dozens of departments, agencies, profit and non-profit entities, our staff and volunteers must be proactive. Further, a rigorous public education campaign strategy is crucial to generate media interest, public awareness, or to bolster key volunteer groups as the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT). Unquestionably, a principal objective is to continue to serve as a reliable asset to emergency first responders. Revamped in 2007, the agency's website will be updated to reflect such emergency planning for special needs populations.

The profession of emergency management is the epitome of organized analysis, selective planning, clear decision making, and appropriate assignment of available resources to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of all hazards. Without hesitation or delay, our discipline must also ensure that no segment of the population is left behind in a crisis. Failure is not an option!

**\*Note: Director Holland welcomes comments and suggestions from colleagues who are involved in special needs planning. He can be reached at (614)794-0213 or [g\\_holland@wowway.com](mailto:g_holland@wowway.com).**

The Franklin County Board of Health (FCBH) and Columbus Public Health, in conjunction with their partners in the Central Ohio Information Network (COPIN), have launched [columbuspandemicflu.com](http://columbuspandemicflu.com), a Web site teeming with information on pandemic influenza and how the public and businesses should prepare themselves for an outbreak.

In the last year, federal, state and local governments have placed an emphasis on preparing for a future epidemic, and the Web site represents a local tool for doing so, said Mitzi Kline, FCBH director of communication.

COPIN's 50-some participants, which run the gamut from social service agencies to local media outlets, would ensure that there are open lines of communication across the community, she said.

*Courtesy Suburban News Publications*

